

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine

Presbytery: 30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG

Tel: 07552859147

Email: michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Administrator: Teresa Gosling

Tel: 07552859160

Parish Administration Emails:

chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com

corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com

Associate Priest: Mgr Keith Newton Tel: 07976585891



SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (Fr Millett)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

with Children's Liturgy

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Monday 6th January

Monday after Epiphany No Mass

Tuesday 7th January

Tuesday after Epiphany

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (Martin McMahon)

Wednesday 8th January

Wednesday after Epiphany

12pm Mass (Cor) (Kiss Miklos Sr)

Thursday 9th January

Thursday after Epiphany

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (Naomi Sutton)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 10th January

Friday after Epiphany

12pm Mass (Cor) (Peter Biggins)

Saturday 11th January

Saturday after Epiphany

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

THE FEAST OF BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (Pro Populo)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (P & K Mollaghan)

with Children's Liturgy

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S SOLEMNITY commemorates the visit of the magi to worship the child Jesus as told in the Gospel of Matthew: "Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, which means "to manifest," "appear," or "make known." The Feast celebrates the revelation of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world. The magi, or kings, or astrologers, or seekers from the East, stand in for all the peoples of the earth, for Jesus comes not just for one group of people but for all. "The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great 'Epiphany' celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the 'Magi' from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation." CCC 528

THANK YOU to all who helped to prepare our churches for the Christmas celebrations: musicians, singers, ministers, sacristans, servers, cleaners, welcomers, flower and tree decorators and indeed everyone who helped in so many ways. After next Sunday's masses, we will take down the Christmas trees and decorations as the Christmas season ends with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. All help will be gratefully received from anyone present after Mass.

FR MICHAEL would like to thank everyone for their kindness over the Christmas period in sending cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Leif & Izzy, the two labradors, also appreciated the bones and treats! Thank you.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR Pope Francis has named 2025 Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. There's a new page on the Clifton Diocese website to share news about the jubilee year, resources to deepen your prayer life and point towards celebrations in 2025. Pope Francis is also encouraging us to rediscover the ancient practice of pilgrimage during 2025. All are invited to join our diocesan pilgrimages, such as the Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Rome, with Bishop Bosco and 27th September to 2nd October 2025, our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and our Diocesan Glastonbury pilgrimage, which takes place on 7th September 2025.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH resumes this Wednesday, 8th January, at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break. Please keep those who journey in faith your prayers.

ALTAR SERVERS AT CHIPPENHAM we still urgently need more altar servers at St Mary's, particularly for the 11am Sung Mass on Sunday. Children who have made first communion are welcome as are women and men. Please speak to Father Michael. No experience necessary as formation will be given.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CORSHAM & CHIPPENHAM 2025 The first meeting for parents is Wednesday 8th January at 6pm in St Mary's Parish Office (by the disabled entrance) The first teaching session for children follows on Saturday 11th January at 4pm. More information will be given at the parents' meeting. The most important part of preparation for the first Holy Communion is the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass.

CHOIRS IN OUR PARISHES We thank our choirs and musicians for the great work they do in supporting worship in both parishes. It was good to see all our choirs coming together for the Christmas Vigil this year. As we move towards Holy Week and Easter, we are looking for more singers to swell the ranks. If you like to sing, then please do join us. You will receive a warm welcome in both churches.

PEACE SUNDAY Pax Christi promotes Peace Sunday with the support of the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference. Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade. This year, Peace Sunday falls on the 19th January and the theme is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace is 'Forgive us our trespasses: **Grant us your peace**'. The message speaks of how we must listen to the 'pleas of an endangered humanity', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by 'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth' and 'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'. You can make donations to: www.paxchristi.org.uk.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND OUR CALLING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES Wednesday 29th January 7pm in St John the Evangelist Church, South Parade, Bath. An introduction to Catholic Social Teaching by Jenny Sinclair, founder and director of 'Together for The Common Good'. All are welcome.

REGISTRATION If you have recently moved, or you have a new telephone number please could you let the Parish Office know so that records can be updated. Also, if you are new to the parish and would like to register, then please do so via the parish website (see front of the bulletin), or ask Teresa, our administrator, for a registration form.

BEYOND THE THRESHOLD create safe spaces for people to find out who we are, what we believe and what we're like! On Saturday 18th January we will explore the key principles that we need to employ as we embark on programs of catechesis: St Brendan's College, Brislington 10am. To register go to Eventbrite link: <https://beyondthethreshold.eventbrite.co.uk>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS are heard at St Mary's on Saturday between 4.15 pm and 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after the weekday masses or by prior arrangement with Fr Michael. Please note that there will be no Confessions on 15th or 17th January.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, Victoria Kiss, Pamela Naylor, Anne Martin, Sue Sheehan. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Recently departed: John Cavacuiti.

RIP Anniversaries: John Dawber, Jim Lynch, Baby Richard Green, Geoff Stevens, Hephzibah Rumbold, Lil Gardener, Daphne Burke, Josie Wilkins, Ruth Hughes, Sadie Harlowe, Tom Ward, Hugh Rooney, Baby Georgina Morea, Yvonne Miles, Madeleine Ordano, Moyra O'Donnell.

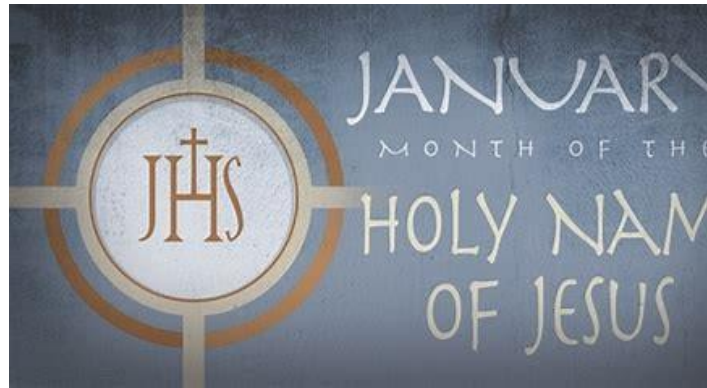
Peace in the Holy Land and in Ukraine

The Holy Father's Prayer January Intention: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Thomas of Canterbury, Fairford, with Cricklade.

In compliance with the requirements of GDPR permission must be sought from an individual (or next of kin) before their name can be added to a list of those who are sick. Do please advise us of any changes to be made to this list.

January – The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus



January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, and it's an ideal time to strengthen our connection to the beautiful name of our Lord. In fact, all names are to be treated with respect. Do you know the meaning of your own name? It's interesting to discover. A name is an emblem of one's dignity but the name of Jesus in particular should be held in the highest regard; spoken and heard only in a sacred way. The beautiful name "Jesus" means, "God saves." So the name of Jesus is not only the name of our Saviour but also, by its meaning, states the purpose of His existence, reminding us of the incredible blessing of salvation. Let us therefore give that name great honour! Also, let us remember that Jesus's name in Aramaic is "Yeshua" So that is what Jesus was called in his own native language (the name Joshua is derived from this name, too).

You may wish to adopt the pious practice (that used to be more widely practiced and is so meaningful and fitting) of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus. Scripture tells us: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). The Council of Lyons in 1274 stated: "Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious Name is recalled, especially during the sacred Mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head."

Philippians 2:9-11

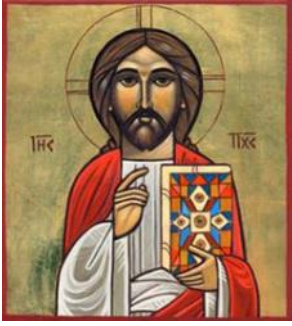
"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Collect of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Finding Comfort in the Holy Name of Jesus

Lord Jesus, when the storms of life rage and troubles surround me, I find comfort in Your holy name. Your presence brings solace and peace to my troubled heart. In times of distress, I turn to You, knowing that You are my refuge and strength. Your name is a source of unending comfort and assurance, and I am grateful for the peace it provides.



THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)

First reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all round, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13. Rcf. 11

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.